

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-  
2 of-sale terminal, comprising:
  - 3 determining a monetary value;
  - 4 allocating a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the monetary value;
  - 5 outputting a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion identifier that  
6 identifies the allocated portion of the ticket; and
  - 7 storing the ticket identifier and the portion identifier.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, in which the step of determining a monetary value  
2 comprises:
  - 3 determining a monetary value based on an amount of change due for a purchase.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - 2 selecting the ticket from a plurality of tickets.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, in which the step of selecting the ticket from a plurality of  
2 tickets comprises:
  - 3 selecting a ticket having an unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary  
4 value.
- 1 5. The method of claim 3, in which the step of selecting the ticket from a plurality of  
2 tickets comprises:

3           determining a set of tickets that each have an unallocated portion at least as great  
4 as the monetary value; and  
5           selecting a ticket from the set of tickets which has a minimal unallocated portion.

1   6.     An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a  
2 point-of-sale terminal, comprising:  
3           a storage device; and  
4           a processor connected to the storage device,  
5           the storage device storing  
6                 a program for controlling the processor; and  
7           the processor operative with the program to:  
8                 determine a monetary value;  
9                 allocate a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the monetary  
10 value;  
11                 output a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion identifier  
12 that identifies the allocated portion of the ticket; and  
13                 store the ticket identifier and the portion identifier in the storage device.

1   7.     The apparatus of claim 6, in which the processor is further operative with the  
2 program to:  
3           determine a monetary value based on an amount of change due for a purchase.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 6, in which the processor is further operative with the  
2 program to:

3 select the ticket from a plurality of tickets.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 8, in which the processor is further operative with the  
2 program to:

3 select a ticket having an unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary  
4 value.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 8, in which the processor is further operative with the  
2 program to:

3 determine a set of tickets that each have an unallocated portion at least as great as  
4 the monetary value; and

5 select a ticket from the set of tickets which has a minimal unallocated portion.

1 11. A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-  
2 of-sale terminal, comprising:

3 determining a monetary value;

4 allocating a portion of each ticket of a plurality of tickets, the portion of each  
5 ticket being associated with a portion of the monetary value;

6 outputting a plurality of ticket identifiers that identify the plurality of tickets and a  
7 plurality of portion identifiers that identify the allocated portions of each ticket; and

8 storing the ticket identifiers and the portion identifiers.

1    12.    An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a  
2    point-of-sale terminal, comprising:  
3           a storage device; and  
4           a processor connected to the storage device,  
5           the storage device storing  
6           a program for controlling the processor; and  
7           the processor operative with the program to:  
8           determine a monetary value;  
9           allocate a portion of each ticket of a plurality of tickets, the portion of each  
10   ticket being associated with a portion of the monetary value;  
11           output a plurality of ticket identifiers that identify the plurality of tickets  
12   and a plurality of portion identifiers that identify the allocated portions of each ticket; and  
13           store the ticket identifiers and the portion identifiers in the storage device.

1    13.    A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-  
2    of-sale terminal, comprising:  
3           determining an amount of change due for a purchase;  
4           determining a monetary value based on the amount of change due;  
5           selecting a ticket from a plurality of tickets, the selected ticket having an  
6   unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary value;  
7           allocating at least a portion of the selected ticket, the portion being based on the  
8   monetary value;

9           outputting a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion identifier that  
10 identifies the allocated portion of the selected ticket; and  
11           storing the ticket identifier and the portion identifier.

1   14.   The method of claim 13, in which the step of determining a monetary value  
2 comprises:  
3           rounding the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby  
4 generating a rounded change amount; and  
5           setting the monetary value equal to the rounded change amount.

1   15.   The method of claim 14, in which the step of rounding the amount of change due  
2 comprises:  
3           rounding down the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby  
4 generating a rounded-down change amount.

1   16.   The method of claim 13, further comprising:  
2           outputting an offer to exchange a fractional lottery ticket for change due.

1   17.   An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a  
2 point-of-sale terminal, comprising:  
3           a storage device; and  
4           a processor connected to the storage device,  
5           the storage device storing

6                   a program for controlling the processor; and  
7           the processor operative with the program to:  
8                   determine an amount of change due for a purchase;  
9                   determine a monetary value based on the amount of change due;  
10                  select a ticket from a plurality of tickets, the selected ticket having an  
11   unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary value;  
12                  allocate at least a portion of the selected ticket, the portion being based on  
13   the monetary value;  
14                  output a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion identifier  
15   that identifies the allocated portion of the selected ticket; and  
16                  store the ticket identifier and the portion identifier in the storage device.

1   18.   The apparatus of claim 17, in which the processor is further operative with the  
2   program to:  
3                  round the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby generating a  
4   rounded change amount; and  
5                  set the monetary value equal to the rounded change amount.

1   19.   The apparatus of claim 18, in which the processor is further operative with the  
2   program to:  
3                  round down the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby  
4   generating a rounded-down change amount.

1    20.    The apparatus of claim 17, in which the processor is further operative with the  
2    program to:

3            output an offer to exchange a fractional lottery ticket for change due.

1    21.    A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-  
2    of-sale terminal, comprising:

3            receiving a ticket identifier that identifies a ticket and a portion identifier that  
4    identifies an allocated portion of the ticket;

5            determining a prize value of the ticket; and

6            determining a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the  
7    ticket.

1    22.    An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a  
2    point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

3            a storage device; and

4            a processor connected to the storage device,

5            the storage device storing

6            a program for controlling the processor; and

7            the processor operative with the program to:

8            receive a ticket identifier that identifies a ticket and a portion identifier  
9    that identifies an allocated portion of the ticket;

10           determine a prize value of the ticket; and

11                   determine a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the  
12 ticket.

1   23.    A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-  
2 of-sale terminal, comprising:  
3           determining a monetary value;  
4           allocating at least a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the monetary  
5 value;  
6           determining a prize value of the ticket; and  
7           providing a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the ticket.

1   24.    An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a  
2 point-of-sale terminal, comprising:  
3           a storage device; and  
4           a processor connected to the storage device,  
5           the storage device storing  
6           a program for controlling the processor; and  
7           the processor operative with the program to:  
8           determine a monetary value;  
9           allocate at least a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the  
10 monetary value;  
11           determine a prize value of the ticket; and



12                    provide a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the  
13 ticket.

1    25.    A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-  
2 of-sale terminal, comprising:  
3            maintaining a supply of tickets, each ticket having an unallocated portion thereof;  
4            acquiring an additional ticket.

1    26.    The method of claim 25, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket  
2 comprises:  
3            counting a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above a first  
4 predetermined threshold; and  
5            acquiring an additional ticket if the number of tickets having an unallocated  
6 portion that is above the first predetermined threshold is below a second predetermined  
7 threshold.

1    27.    The method of claim 25, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket  
2 comprises:  
3            receiving an indication of a requested portion;  
4            counting a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above the  
5 requested portion; and  
6            acquiring an additional ticket if the number of tickets having unallocated portion  
7 that is above the requested portion is below a predetermined threshold.

1    28.    The method of claim 25, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket  
2    comprises:

3            acquiring a predetermined number of additional tickets.

1    29.    The method of claim 25, further comprising:

2            calculating a sum of the unallocated portions of the tickets.

1    30.    The method of claim 29, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket  
2    comprises:

3            acquiring an additional ticket if the calculated sum is below a predetermined  
4    threshold.

1    31.    An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a  
2    point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

3            a storage device; and

4            a processor connected to the storage device,

5            the storage device storing

6            a program for controlling the processor; and

7            the processor operative with the program to:

8            maintain a supply of tickets, each ticket having an unallocated portion

9    thereof; and

10           acquire an additional ticket.

1    32.    The apparatus of claim 31, in which the processor is further operative with the  
2    program to:  
3            count a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above a first  
4    predetermined threshold; and  
5            acquire an additional ticket if the number of tickets having an unallocated portion  
6    that is above the first predetermined threshold is below a second predetermined threshold.

1    33.    The apparatus of claim 31, in which the processor is further operative with the  
2    program to:  
3            receive an indication of a requested portion;  
4            count a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above the  
5    requested portion; and  
6            acquire an additional ticket if the number of tickets having unallocated portion  
7    that is above the requested portion is below a predetermined threshold.

1    34.    The apparatus of claim 31, in which the processor is further operative with the  
2    program to:  
3            acquire a predetermined number of additional tickets.

1    35.    The apparatus of claim 31, in which the processor is further operative with the  
2    program to:  
3            calculate a sum of the unallocated portions of the tickets.

1    36.    The apparatus of claim 35, in which the processor is further operative with the  
2    program to:  
3            acquire an additional ticket if the calculated sum is below a predetermined  
4    threshold.  
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